Private Communication Satellites

1162. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with greater tenhonological development a number of private communication satellites have been transmitting broadcasts to the Indian public;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether in the light of the number of privately broadcast programmes being available on cable network, does the Goverment have a policy for the regulation of broadcast media; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some of the foreign satellite channels which can be received in India are as follows Star TV channels, Zee TV, CNN, JAIN Satellite TV, ATN; SUN TTV Asianet and Udaya.

(c) and (d) The operation of cable television networks in the country is governed by the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Ordinance 1995, passed by both the House of Parliament.

Restrictions on programmes beamed through Airways

1163. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the implication of the judgement of the Supreme Court declaring ultra vires the restrictions on programmes beamed through airwaves, have been examined by Government;

(b) whether, in view of the ruling, the procedure for granting up-linking facilities to private parties is proposed to be reviewed; and

(c) if so, whether State Government can now proceed to set up radio and television telecasting channels without prior approval of the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) The judgement of the Supreme Court in the case of Union of India versus Cricket Association of Bengal dated 9.2.95 is under the examination of the Government.

SKY Radio Service of Air

1164. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether plans are a foot to revive the Sky Radio Service of the All India Radio, launched last year;

(b) if so, the broad features of this revival plan and the technology to be used to make available to the listeners on televisions when the audio-visual channels are off the-air, particularly the regional radio programmes throughout the country;

(c) whether the plan envisage its marketing through cable operators;

(d) if so, to what extent the terms and conditions thereof;

(e) whether this plan would involve the purchase of some new and expensive equipment; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The sky radio channels are being revived with the following distribution:

i) Delhi	8 channels
ii) Bombay	4 channels
iii) Calcutta	4 channels
iv) Madras	4 channels

These channels would, however, operate only when the television channels are functioning.

(c) to (f) Cable operators can also retransmit the signals of the sky radio channels by fixing an additional equipment. The cost for disseminating 4 such channels would be Rs. 1000 approx. The individual subscriber can, thereafter, receive the signal on a domestic FM receiver.

Radio paging service by air

1165. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BRODCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Radio launched the high-tech radio paging service in the capital;

(b) if so, the broad features of the proposed service;

(c) whether Government propose to start radio paging service in all parts of the country; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) Yes. Sir. The service using AIR's FM transmitter in New Delhi commenced operation from 14th January, 1995. It is available round the clock to subscribers within a radius of 50-60 kms.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A similar service was started at Nagpur from 6th March, 1995. It would also commence from 15 other cities later this year.

Foreign Media Tie-ups

1166. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain foreign media owners are seeking tie-ups with local parties to exploit the Indian market and have submitted projects to the Foreign Investment Promotion Board;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the decision, if any, taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, what are implications involved in relation to the domestic media?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Documentaries on Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookherjee and Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya

1167. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the documentaries on the life and works of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookherjee and Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya being shown on Doordarshan on their respective birth anniversaries have been discontinued or the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether Doordarshan has drawn some specific guidelines for telecasting documentaries and other features about national leaders if so, details thereof;

(d) what are the details of such documentaries and features which were telecast during 1994 with special mention of the names of the leaders; and

(e) what was the time allotted to each programme?